



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

March 15, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

NEW HOMELESS COORDINATOR – GARRISON SMITH

I am pleased to advise you that I have hired Garrison Smith as our Homeless Coordinator. Mr. Smith will start with the County on April 16, 2007. Mr. Smith has an impressive background working with programs that serve the homeless, persons with HIV/AIDs, and young adults. He has been employed with the Children's Law Center since 2005 and is leading a foster care policy reform project which has been highly commended by the County and other participants in the County's foster care system. His leadership in organizing and implementing a day long Foster Youth Mental Health Summit in May of 2006 and producing a report on the Summit findings and recommendations is particularly noteworthy. He is currently working with the County and others to implement the Summit's recommendations.

Attached for your information is Mr. Smith's resume for your review. As soon as Mr. Smith is on board we will schedule meetings with each of you and your staff, so that he has the opportunity to get a first hand understanding of your individual and collective interest in homeless issues. Thank you for joining me in welcoming Mr. Smith to the County family.

If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may call Lari Sheehan of my staff at (213) 893-2477 or lsheehan@cao.lacounty.gov.

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Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Homeless Deputies

Garrison Smith

Education

Suffolk University, Boston, MA, 1993
Bachelors of Art/ English cum Laude

Career Experience

Director— Children's Law Center of Los Angeles (CLC) Los Angeles, CA 2005 - present
Provided leadership to Foster Care Policy Reform project

- Led the management, coordination, and execution of a three-year Foster Care Mental Health Policy reform project funded by The California Endowment designed to ensure that appropriate and timely mental health services are consistently provided to children and youth in the child welfare throughout Los Angeles County.
- Created and supervised a Mental Health unit within CLC designed to provide guidance to agency staff regarding appropriate mental health services.
- Organized and executed a one-day Summit entitled, "The 2006 Foster Youth Mental Health Summit: *Making Reform Real*" in Los Angeles, CA.
- Assembled an 69-person Advisory committee comprised of local and state-wide Foster Care leaders from the Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Mental Health, California Institute of Mental Health, Los Angeles County Probation Department, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles County Sheriff's department, LAUSD homeless liaison, and various other Los Angeles based child welfare provider and advocacy organizations charged with shaping the design of the Summit.
- Participated on various legislative and policy reform committees in Los Angeles and Sacramento, California.
- Facilitated monthly Advisory and Summit planning committee meetings.
- Integrated Children's Law Center into the homeless youth and adult provider network leading to the enhancement of a more seamless continuum of service provision for children and youth in the Los Angeles dependency system.

Interim Executive Director – LA Art Association Los Angeles, CA 2004 – 2005
Served at the Interim Executive Director to one of the Los Angeles' oldest non-profit Arts organizations

- Provided leadership to a full spectrum of emerging artist support programs and monthly art exhibitions.
- Managed the day to day operations of the Gallery and created new policies to reflect newly streamlined processes.
- Worked closely with the Board of Directors in all facets of organizational management.
- Managed and developed a \$180,000 budget resulting in the first balanced budget for the organization in five years.
- Supervised a staff of two persons.
- Developed a new micro-enterprise art education program aimed at generating much needed income for the organization.
- Led and facilitated multiple organizational development and fundraising activities such as event planning, private foundation outreach, donor development and Board of Directors recruitment.
- Wrote four grants to public and private organizations resulting in \$10,000 in the first 6 months of employment.
- Worked closely with the Board of Directors and artist constituency to implement 80th Anniversary Celebrations.

References Supplied Upon Request

Co-Founder/Co- Executive Director – LifeWorks Mentoring Los Angeles, CA 2002 – 2005
Co-Founded the nation's first mentor organizations for sexual minority youth

- Developed a unique mentoring model program for sexual minority and transgender youth that combines traditional mentoring with life coaching techniques.
- Lead and constructed a wide range of organizational capacity building activities including strategic planning, fundraising, sustainability planning to staff, Advisory Board and Board of Directors.
- Formed and facilitated a multidisciplinary, multigenerational community advisory board which identified the critical need for mentoring programs for sexual minority and transgender youth in Los Angeles County.
- Worked closely with Los Angeles County homeless youth and Foster Care providers to create a continuum of services with minimal duplication.
- Wrote two grants resulting in \$35,000 in private foundation funding.
- Solicited Major gifts and developed ongoing fundraising events yielding \$30,000 during 2004.

Director of Youth Services – LA Gay & Lesbian Center Los Angeles, CA 1999 - 2002
Provided leadership to the world's oldest LGBTQ homeless youth program

- Designed new homeless sexual minority and transgender youth programs to include HIV/AIDS peer led prevention, family reunification, homeless youth outreach and peer led talk-line programs.
- Lead a staff of 50 persons and supervised three veteran managers housed at two sites.
- Created a five-year strategic plan for the LA Gay & Lesbian Center's Youth Services Department to include the expansion of the current homeless sexual minority and transgender youth drop-in center, 24-bed transitional housing program and mental health services
- Oversaw a \$2.5 million budget.
- Authored 12 grants resulting in \$1.2 million in public funds within first year.
- Reintegrated the Youth Department into the local and national community of youth providers and homeless service organizations.
- Created policy and procedure manual for effective standards of service and protocols for community based responses.

Interim Program Director, Victory Programs, Inc. Boston, MA 1998 – 1999
Provided leadership to Substance Abuse Wellness Center

- Managed a Wellness Center that provided complementary therapies such as Acupuncture, Reiki, Yoga and Meditation to homeless or formerly homeless people in recovery from addiction.
- Oversaw a \$350,000 budget and a staff of four seasoned managers.
- Participated as a member of the organization's leadership team.
- Worked with Boston area substance abuse, homeless and mental health providers to advocate for holistic complimentary therapies as an additional modality for substance abuse treatment.

Other Work Experience

Program Coordinator/Trainer, Victory Programs, Inc. Boston, MA 1996 – 1999
▪ Managed and created three-day training for HIV and Addiction professionals on Holistic therapies for working with homeless persons in recovery and living with HIV/AIDS.

HIV Educator and Counselor, Dimock Health Center, Roxbury, MA 1994 – 1996
▪ Provided HIV counseling-testing and education services to six inner-city testing sites throughout Boston, MA. Administered HIV/AIDS training to correctional institutions, community health centers, homeless shelters, school systems and health care providers throughout Boston.

Significant Accomplishments

- Co-Founded LifeWorks Mentoring, the nation's first gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Mentoring Program, 2003

References Supplied Upon Request

- Raised \$1.4 million for various non profits between 2000 - 2005
 - Received a Community Service Award from Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) for work with homeless youth, 2002
 - Co-Chair of the LAPD Hollywood Division Community Police Advisory Board Homeless sub-committee, 2000 – 2002
 - Co-Chair of the Hollywood Homeless Youth Partnership (HHYP), 2001
 - Developed training for HIV/AIDS providers working with youth of color, National Network for Youth, Washington, D.C., 2003
 - Governor appointed Chair of the Massachusetts LGBTQ Addiction Task Force by the Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health, Boston, MA, 1998
 - Designed New England's first Standards of Care for Transgender substance abuse treatment, Boston, MA, 1998
 - Member of the Ryan White AIDS funding grant review board of Massachusetts, Boston, MA, 1997, 1998
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Professional Speaking Engagements

Guest Panelist for release of "Out in the Cold" documentary about Homeless LGBTQ youth in Los Angeles. Sponsored by Judy Shepard, mother of slain gay youth, Matthew Shepard, 2002

"Working with homeless Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender youth", Guest speaker at the National Network for Youth, Washington, D.C. 2001

"Mental Health Issues facing sexual minority youth" Keynote speaker, Children's Institute training, Los Angeles, CA, 2001

"Spectrum of Gender and Sexuality" Guest Speaker, Los Angeles Transgender youth conference, Los Angeles, CA, 2001

"Creating an HIV/AIDS Buddy program for working with people in Recovery" Guest Speaker, Mass Prevention Council's annual HIV provider conference, Boston, MA, 1998

Ongoing lecturer for the Institute for Non-Profit Management on **Volunteer Management**, Boston, MA, 1996 – 1999

Chief Program Specialist, (Homeless Coordinator) CAO
Supplemental Questionnaire

1. Describe the length and breadth of your experience that demonstrates your knowledge of housing and/or supportive services for the homeless.

Over the past 15 years, I have worked in various social service fields such as HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, homeless youth, and foster care. In each position I've overseen programs, advocated for system reform, and led efforts to create services that meet the mental health, social-vocational, and housing needs of people at risk for homelessness in Boston, MA and Los Angeles, CA. From 2000 – 2003, I ran the youth services department for the LA Gay & Lesbian whose target population are gay and lesbian homeless youth throughout Los Angeles and concentrated along Santa Monica Blvd. While in this position, I worked closely with homeless advocates on the "10 year plan to end hunger and homelessness", created a homeless youth HIV prevention project funded through the Office of AIDS programs and policy, and advocated to include mental health and supportive services in federal and statewide housing funding programs such as HUD and DHHS.

2. Describe your experience in developing a program for the homeless. What was the program? What steps did you follow to accomplish your strategies?

As noted above, I created an HIV prevention project geared towards homeless youth in Hollywood. This project was funded for three years through the Office of AIDS programs and policy. To accomplish this, I relied on current research on homelessness, collaborated with homeless providers such as Childrens Hospital, Covenant House CA, My Friends Place, PATH, and LAHSA. The goal of the project was to reach out to homeless youth regarding HIV/AIDS while not duplicating efforts of other providers.

3. Describe your managerial/supervisory experience in overseeing the work of others involved in homeless programs.

I've overseen a 50-person homeless youth program and three senior managers while at the LA Gay & Lesbian Center and currently supervise two mental health professionals at Children's Law Center.

4. Describe your experience in working with elected officials and their staff and private partners, including non-profit organizations, on issues related to homelessness.

In my current position, I work closely with the Board of Supervisors deputies, Commission for Children and families, DCFS, DMH, Probation, Sheriff, statewide child welfare leaders from CA DHHS and other advocacy groups. In past positions, I have built lasting working relationships with various City of Los Angeles city council members, City of West Hollywood council members, LAHSA, HUD, and CDC.

5. Describe your experience in preparing and/or presenting reports and recommendations to management, officials or private or non-profit organizations on homeless issues.

I have vast experience in preparing and presenting reports as required by all the leadership positions I've held over the past 15 years. In both my current and previous positions, I have made monthly and quarterly presentations to both County and City councils, commissions and committees.